



UPDATE:

Virginia Board for Geology

FALL 2003



ASBOG WILL MEET IN VIRGINIA IN 2007: Last year in this space we reported to you that the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) has agreed to bring their 2007 Annual Meeting to Williamsburg, VA.

The Board's staff has already put ASBOG officials in contact with an organization in Williamsburg which will help them find a suitable facility for the meeting.

The Board believes that the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in the New World will serve as an excellent backdrop for the ASBOG 2007 Annual Meeting.

The invitation to ASBOG was extended in response to Executive Order Number 6 issued by Governor Warner directing all state agencies and boards to actively recruit national and regional conferences to Virginia.

The Board will provide more information as it becomes available.

ON-LINE CERTIFICATION RENEWAL: Have you visited the DPOR Website recently? Certified Geologists may now pay their renewal fee on-line. Once the fee is paid on-line, the renewed certification will be printed and mailed in a few days. This service is available to all regulants of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

On the renewal notices, which will continue to be mailed approximately 45 days prior to the expiration of the certificate, the regulant will be provided with a temporary PIN number to access the on-line renewal service. The regulant will then have the option of renewing on-line or by mail. On-line renewal payments must be made by credit card. Regulants of the Board will continue to be required to certify compliance with the Standards of Practice and Conduct as established by the Board (see 18 VAC 10-20-670 of the Board's regulations). The regulant renewing the license, certificate, or registration will also have the option of updating their address if necessary. Late payments and reinstatement fees CANNOT be made on-line.

Additionally, while on-line fee payment can allow a person to renew successfully on the day of license expiration, please be aware that if a technical problem were to occur, i.e., the server is down or the credit card verifier is temporarily disabled, the certification would be considered expired until such time as payment is received in the Board office, and could be subject to additional renewal or reinstatement requirements. For these reasons, it is highly recommended to pay the renewal fee on-line at least a few days prior to the expiration date.

RENEWAL EXTENSION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: All individuals on active military duty during 2003 may be given an extension to comply with certification requirements, including application and renewal requirements, for one year after release from military duty.

This provision was passed during the 2003 Session of the General Assembly and expires on July 1, 2004. Therefore, all requests for extensions must be approved by July 1, 2004.

To qualify for the extension, you must provide a copy of your DD-214 form or other appropriate documentation to verify active duty status.

EXAMINATION NEWS: This years marks the fifth year that the Board for Geology has been using the ASBOG national examination to determine eligibility for a certification as a professional geologist in Virginia.

Beginning with the October 2003 administration, candidates will pay their examination directly to ASBOG rather than to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Geology Examination Results for July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003:

Examination Type	Total Tested	Total Passed	Percentage Passed
Fundamentals of Geology	31	14	45.16
Practice of Geology	28	16	57.14

REMINDERS:

1. **Renewal** – Regulations require Virginia certified professional geologists to be responsible for renewing their certification, **even if** they do not receive the renewal notice (perhaps from change of address, exceeding forwarding period, or non-delivery). If renewal requirements are not completed by the end of the 30-day grace period, then the late payment fee or later the reinstatement fee is required. Regulations do not give the Board authority to override these requirements. Renewal is in August of the odd number years.
2. **Change of Address** - It is a Virginia certified professional geologist's responsibility to inform the Board of a change of address. As stated above, not receiving the renewal notice does not remove the responsibility of renewal from the regulant.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Thomas E. Rice, Chair (certified geologist)
Mr. Robert A. Baird, Ph. D. (certified geologist)
Ms. Sarah L. Stinger (certified geologist)
Mr. Thomas B. Holmes (citizen member)
Ms. Kristina Bartlett Brody (citizen member)
Mr. Rick Berquist, Ph. D., Virginia State Geologist (ex officio member)

CONTACT THE BOARD: For your convenience, you can contact the Board for Geology with any questions or comments through several means -

1. Phone: 804-367-8507
2. FAX: 804-367-6128
3. E-mail: geology@dpor.state.va.us
4. Mail: Board for Geology 3600 West Broad Street, 5th floor, Richmond, VA 23230

Upcoming Meetings of the Board for Geology

**November 20, 2003, January 6, 2004, April 20, 2004,
July 28, 2004, and October 13, 2004**

The Board holds its meetings at:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Richmond, VA The Real Estate Board
3600 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

STAFF MEMBERS

Louise Fontaine Ware..... Director
Sandra Whitley Ryals Chief Deputy Director
Karen W. O'Neal..... Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
David Dick..... Executive Director
Adrienne Mayo Office Manager

BOARD WEBSITE: *Ever wonder where to get a copy of the Board's regulations? Or an application form? What about the next edition of this newsletter? Maybe you want the Board's e-mail address or telephone number.*

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation's website has all of that information and more. Just navigate to <http://www.state.va.us/dpor/indexie.html>. Once there, click on "Boards & Regulations" in the left column. A list of occupations will appear below. Scroll down and click on "Geology." The right column will now become the website for the Board for Geology.

REGULANT LOOKUP: *The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) has a feature that all geologists may find useful. This feature is called "Regulant Lookup". "Regulant Lookup" allows anyone to check on the status of any person regulated by DPOR (including disciplinary actions). Only current, active records will appear.*

To access "Regulant Lookup", go to the DPOR website at <http://www.state.va.us/dpor/indexie.html>.

In the left column, click on "Regulant Lookup" and choose one of the two options that appear below it. Then simply follow the instructions on either of the pages. Please note that you must have either the person's license number or the correctly spelled name in order to look up an individual regulant.